CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 6 JUNE 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A STATEMENT MADE BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON 15 MAY 1995 IN CONNECTION WITH A NEW NUCLEAR TEST CONDUCTED BY CHINA

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference and has the honour to forward a statement made by a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 15 May 1995 in connection with the new nuclear test carried out by the People's Republic of China.

The Permanent Mission would be grateful if the secretariat would take appropriate steps to issue this statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States of the Conference participating in its work.

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STATEMENT BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CONCERNING THE NEW CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST

According to information received, an underground nuclear test was carried out in China on 15 May 1995. This is the fourth nuclear explosion carried out in China in a period of over two years during which the other nuclear Powers have been exercising restraint and jointly observing the moratorium they have declared on such tests.

This action by China prompts regret and concern, all the more so as it was taken after the successful conclusion of the Conference of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in New York, which adopted by consensus the historic decision to extend the Treaty indefinitely.

Furthermore, this action is not conducive to the creation of a favourable atmosphere around the multilateral negotiations in Geneva concerning the comprehensive prohibition of nuclear testing.

It is to be hoped that China will reconsider its approach to nuclear tests and refrain from further testing. That would constitute a real contribution to the successful conclusion of the Geneva negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban, and would promote the strengthening of international security.